

Group I consists of claims 1-4 and 9-17, which are product-by-process claims. Group II consists of claims 5-8, which are process claims. Since the claims of Group I explicitly recite the steps of the process claimed by Group II, applicants respectfully submit that the two groups of claims are not distinct and do not require restriction.

The Examiner notes that inventions are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product, or (2) the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. However, neither has been demonstrated here. In fact, the product claims are actually product-by-process claims explicitly reciting the steps of the process claims.

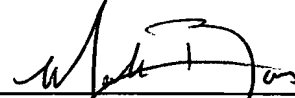
Further, as the examiner notes, Group I is classified in class 426, subclass 656. Group II is also classified in class 426, subclass 656, the very same class and subclass. Therefore, the search for Group I will be the same as required for Group II. For this reason, it is also respectfully submitted that the pending restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic or personal interview would be helpful to terminate any issues which may remain in the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth herein below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in the Application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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